



Northland Neighborhoods News

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Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life in the Northland by collaborating with residents, businesses and institutions to empower neighborhoods to build and maintain their own healthy communities. We join with them in absolute dedication to finding solutions and, in that collective spirit, we will leave no neighborhood behind.

Council members' persistence on Northland roads paying off

Since February 2008, Kansas City Council members Deb Hermann and Bill Skaggs have conducted monthly meetings at NNI to spur progress on Northland transportation projects. The meetings, held on third Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. at NNI, are paying off for Northland residents.

Key to the success of this "road show" is the presence of high-level City staff at the meetings. The staff members now know that residents expect progress, not excuses. Councilwoman Hermann sees a dual benefit from the monthly staff updates. "The meetings bring the staff face to face with concerned residents who expect accountability. Accountability triggers action. And the professional staff gets real satisfaction from reporting real progress. It's a win-win," Hermann says.

North Brighton, Chouteau Parkway, Searcy Creek Parkway, Shoal Creek Parkway, and ATA bus service top the list of frequently discussed projects. Delays on the North Brighton project are a major source of irritation for Hermann, Skaggs and impacted residents. While the project is still not complete, the update meetings have kept the City's Capital Improvements Management Office (CIMO) on its toes. CIMO has

now provided a timeline for project completion. The Parks and Recreation Department bought into the update meetings from the beginning, bringing timelines and cost breakdowns for each project.

NNI C.E.O. Jim Rice says the update meetings also provide "Infrastructure 101." "When projects are not moving, residents need to know why. The meetings sometimes reveal bureaucratic bungling, but also allow the staff to explain legitimate delays. Communication can be worth as much as brick

and mortar." Infrastructure always makes the short list of Northland priorities. The Hermann-Skaggs road update meetings are giving order to what has too often been a chaotic capital improvement process in the Northland. So far both residents and staff like the process and the results they have already seen. As Councilwoman Hermann is fond of saying, "If you take the time to build transparency and accountability, results won't be far behind."

Some results from the eight update meetings held so far:

- A flashing traffic signal was installed at 72nd and North Brighton after residents reported problems at one of the meetings.
- Faulty street lights on North Brighton are now being fixed.
- Need for better bus service in neighborhoods. Hermann and Skaggs asked the Area Transportation Authority (ATA) to send staff to every meeting.

Volunteer of the Month October 2008 - Yvonne Herrick

Yvonne Herrick is a Chaumiere Neighborhood champion. She has served as secretary, vice president, and president of the neighborhood association. Her current roles include co-chair of the block watch committee, editor of the monthly newsletter, and advisor to the board. She regularly volunteers for game nights, block watches, clean ups, and garage sales.

Yvonne was introduced to the neighborhood association about ten years ago by Chaumiere's late, great former president, Larry McManus. Soon af-

terwards, NNI rallied several Chaumiere residents to participate in a nine-month leadership class and Yvonne has been hooked on community work ever since.



Yvonne Herrick plants a sign in the yard of the first home to receive an NNI SMART grant.

At NNI, Yvonne has served as both a volunteer and a contract employee. She helped administer the C.H.A.M.P. and S.M.A.R.T. home repair programs, and served as NNI's real estate broker on housing projects. She has volunteered on Snake Saturday floats, the Night Out Against Crime Kick-Off, Safe Halloween, the NUSA

conference, Chaumiere neighborhood tours, A.B.O.P.T. and food drives.

Yvonne and her husband of 18 years, Vance, moved to the Chaumiere neighborhood in 1996. Vance grew up in the neighborhood and hoped to find a house close to his parents. He and Yvonne wound up right across the street from his parents.

Yvonne graduated from William Jewell College with degrees in Business and Accounting. After 12 years in traditional office settings, Yvonne launched her real estate career in 2002. "It's a great career and another way to help people. Getting someone into a great house with a loan that is good for them is very rewarding."

Last call for NNI Annual Breakfast seating; Sponsorships and tickets still available

Northland Neighborhoods' 3rd Annual Breakfast is October 17, 7:30 a.m. at the Intrigue Park Place Hotel, 1601 N. Universal Avenue (off Front Street). For the third year in a row, individual seating remains at \$25, table of 10 is \$250. Sponsorships range from \$300 to \$2,500. This year, sponsorships are also available for each award category.

The breakfast recognizes three Northlanders who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. Larry McManus Good

Neighbor Award recipient Charles Lamb is a longtime Habitat for Humanity team leader and community volunteer; Outstanding Public Service Awardee Dave Mecklenburg, an insurance executive and civic leader; Jay Dillingham Lifetime Achievement honoree Anita Gorman is one of the Northland's most distinguished civic leaders. Call NNI at 454-2000 for information and reservations.



NNI teams with YouthWorks to help Northlanders in need

2008 was the first year for YouthWorks volunteers in Kansas City. They provide life-changing, faith-based youth mission opportunities that are fun, significant and targeted to the needs and capabilities of youth, ages 12 to 19.

From June 16 through August 8, young people dispersed throughout the city to work with children and seniors, paint homes, clean up yards and sort food at pantries. YouthWorks helped NNI and the Cooley Highlands Neighborhood, which was selected because it had neighborhood people to supervise the group and senior

citizens who needed assistance. One group painted 3 seniors' homes, worked at Shoal Creek Living History Museum, cleaned up yards, and performed other minor home improvements. Another YouthWorks crew painted 4 homes, completed yard work on 6 seniors' yards, worked at Shepherd's Center, laid carpet at Avondale Baptist Church, spent 8 days at Pleasant Valley Nursing Home, and worked several days at Shoal Creek Living History Museum. Altogether, 190 YouthWorks volunteers clocked 1,965 hours of service during their summer at NNI.

Neighborhood Clips

Neighborhood leadership course postponed

NNI's second EXCEL neighborhood leadership program, originally scheduled for September, has been postponed until January. Several slots are still open, so call Jennifer Presberry at 454-2000 to enroll for this program. You won't be sorry.

NNI FOCUS Center offers voter registration and pet licenses

With a mega election coming November 4, be sure you are registered to vote. The process is simple and quick at NNI, but the deadline is October 8, so hurry. You can purchase 3-year pet licenses at NNI in addition to the 1-year licenses NNI has carried in the past. For neutered and spayed pets, 1-year licenses are \$10, 3-year licenses are \$27. You must present a current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of the pet's sterilization. A 3-year rabies vaccination is required for a 3-year license.

Medicare made easy... or at least easier

Will you turn 65 in the next 1-3 years? Wondering what happens to your health coverage once you are on Medicare? Are your parents on Medicare and you want to understand this program more fully? What is Part D? What will be changed on Part D in 2009? What is a Medicare supplement plan or a Medicare advantage plan? Then this meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. at NNI is for you! Maridan Christensen, a local Humana MarketPoint representative, will help answer these questions and more surrounding Medicare and your options. Maridan has been in the insurance business since 1982 and has an extensive background in working with the public.

NNI to host reception for 6 year-old hero

Drop by NNI on Tuesday, October 28 at 3:30 p.m. for a special reception. The Kansas City Fire Department will honor Crystal Roberts, age 6, who saved herself and her baby sister during a fire in their Northland apartment last January. October is Fire Prevention Month and Crystal will be recognized for knowing what to do to save her sister and herself. All are welcome. Cake and punch will be provided by NNI and the Fire Department.

Senior Workshop: Safety for Seniors

The October 8, 9 a.m. NNI senior workshop will feature Captain Chelly Pfeifer from Shoal Creek Patrol Station discussing Safety for Seniors. The program includes the 4 A's of self defense, purse/wallet safety, travel safety, home safety, car safety, identity theft prevention tips, and more.

NNI's witches and goblins to encore October 31

NNI's ever-popular Halloween Safe Trick-or-Treat event will again be held in the Antioch Mall on Friday, October 31, from 5 to 9 p.m. As usual, a haunted house will take center stage and there will be plenty of hair-raising goblins and grizzly old witches lurking around every corner to guide parents and children to games, candy, popcorn and fun. **The 2008 event has one significant change.** Families will enter the West (Antioch Road) entrance of the mall. Cones in the parking lot will guide you. The event will actually be held in the Mall concourse, rather than the Sears parking garage.

Accurso Orchestra with vocalist Ann Atkin to encore at Hillside Christian Church

If you loved the era of Tommy Dorsey, Glen Miller and all the other Big Band greats, don't miss the free concert and dance presented once again by Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vivion Road. The Don Accurso Orchestra, a Kansas City icon for more than 50 years, will again appear on October 11, 2-4 p.m. The theme: "Music of the 40s—the Way It Used to Be." Light refreshments will be served and reservations will be appreciated. Call 816-453-2623

Light rail plan endorsed by NNI... with reservations

The NNI Board of Directors has endorsed the Light Rail Question on Kansas City's November 4 ballot. At the same time, a number of neighborhood leaders have challenged the Area Transportation Authority (ATA) to come up with a meaningful plan to improve Northland bus service. They note that a light rail line along North Oak will do little good for many Northlanders if they cannot get to North Oak by bus feeder lines or drive to convenient park-and-rides.

NNI looking for qualified home repair contractors

NNI seeks qualified contractors to work for home repair programs dedicated to low and moderate income Northlanders. We are requesting qualification proposals from Section 3-eligible contractors to conduct home repair services in the following categories: Heating and Cooling (HVAC) Systems; Roofing; Windows and Doors; Gutters; Plumbing and Water Heaters; Code Violation Remediation; Siding; Removing Barriers to Access; Weatherization Activities; Lead Testing and Abatement; Flatwork/Concrete; and General Contracting. Please contact Yvonne Herrick at 816-454-2000 if you are or know a contractor interested in earning money while helping improve the quality of life for individuals and the community.



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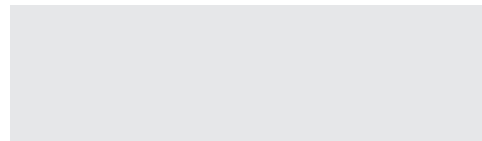
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Kansas City, Missouri 64119

Phone: (816) 454-2000
Fax: (816) 454-1747

infonni@nni.org
www.nni.org

WE WILL LEAVE NO
NEIGHBORHOOD BEHIND.



Public Meetings at NNI October 2008

Tuesday	10/7	Medicare made easy	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10/8	Senior Workshop	9:00 a.m.
Wednesday	10/8	Last day to register to vote in the November election.	
Monday	10/13	Northland Trails	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10/15	Cop Talk at NNI	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/16	Homeworks	6:30 p.m.
Friday	10/17	Annual Breakfast	7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Monday	10/20	NNI Board Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10/21	1st District Roads Update	8:30 a.m.
Thursday	10/23	Homeworks	6:30 p.m.
Monday	10/27	Meet Your Councilpersons	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10/30	Homeworks	6:30 p.m.
Friday	10/31	Safe Trick or Treat – Antioch Mall	5-9 p.m.

This will be the **last** Meet Your Councilpersons meeting until **January 2009**.